Cleaning of Rivers

121. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISH-RA: Will the Minister for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) what are the names of the rivers which are proposed to be go[1] cleaned during the next year; and

(b) when the cleaning work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal for cleaning of rivers apart from the Ganga Action Plan. However, several measures are being taken by the Government to contain water pollution in rivers. These include detailed river-basin studies of 14 major rivers and monitoring of water quality through network of monitoring stations.

Conviction of persons arrested in connection with the colour films import racket

122. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISH-RA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the persons arrested in connection with the colour films import racket involving a customs duty evasion of Rs. 10 crores in Delhi in the months of June-July, 1988 have since been convicted; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A JIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A racket involving evasion of customs duty of about Rs. 4.60 crores was detected by the Customs authorities at Air Cargo Complex near Indira Gandhi International Airport during the last week of July, 1988. The case was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation for further investigation. So far 13 persons have been arrested. As the matter is still under investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation, the trial of the arrested persons has not yet commenced .

Expansion of Indo-Iraq Trade

123. SHRI JAGADISH JANI; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be plea, sed. to state:

(a) whether Government have tak* en steps to expand trade with Iraq; and

(b) if so, the details of areas iden tified for the expansion of Indo-Iraq trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Prospects are emerging for increased trade and commercial cooperation with Iraq. In the area of product fexport, specific possibilities have been identified for export of engineering goods, rubber products tea spices, iron ore pellets, etc. In the area of projects, possibilities are emerging for civil construction, infrastructure development, industrial reconstruction and development, consultancy and operation and maintenance contracts. With a view to increase trade and commercial cooperation with Iraq, steps have been taken to encourage Indian companies to es-j tablish contacts with the concerned Iraqi organisations. Trade Fair Authority of India is participating in the Baghdad International Fair this year on a much larger scale. An offer has been made to extend a commercial line of credit to facilitate export of specified goods from India.

Expansion of Trade between India and Canada

124. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be